

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A safety panel attachable to the grip of a handgun that stores rounds in the said grip, ~~and~~ that has at least one opening in the frame of said grip through which hot gases and shrapnel may pass in a blowout, and that has a grip cover on each side of said grip attached to said grip over said at least one opening, said safety panel comprising a plate for each side of said grip that
 - (1) completely covers said at least one opening;
 - (2) fits entirely underneath said grip cover; ~~and that~~
 - (3) has no apertures therethrough in a portion that is over said opening, where said plate has screw holes therethrough for attaching it to said frame and indentations in its periphery for
 - (A) an ambidextrous thumb safety;
 - (B) a mainspring housing pin; and
 - (C) a magazine release ~~clearance~~ clearance.
2. (Original) A safety panel according to Claim 1 wherein said plate is made of metal.
3. (Original) A safety panel according to Claim 2 wherein said plate is made of steel.
4. (Original) A safety panel according to Claim 3 wherein said plate is made of stainless steel.
5. (Original) A safety panel according to Claim 4 wherein said plate is about 0.010 to about 0.030 inches thick.
6. (Original) A safety panel according to Claim 1 having two screw holes.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method of preventing injury to a person firing a handgun that stores ammunition in a frame in its grip, where a grip cover is fastened to said frame and said frame has at least one aperture through which hot gases and shrapnel from a blowout can pass, comprising

(A) removing said grip cover;

(B) inserting a safety panel according to Claim 1 in between said frame and said grip cover; and

(C) re-fastening said grip cover to said frame.

9. (Currently amended) A handgun having a grip in which ammunition is stored before it is loaded into the barrel of said gun, said grip comprising

(A) a frame having at least one opening through which hot gases and shrapnel in said grip may pass in a blowout;

(B) a grip cover on each side of said frame;

(C) attachment means for fastening said grip covers to said frame; and

(D) a safety panel between said frame and each grip cover, said safety panels comprising two plates having no apertures therethrough over said at least one opening, where each plate fits entirely beneath a grip cover.

10. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 wherein said plate is made of stainless steel.

11. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 10 wherein said plate is about 0.010 to

about 0.030 inches thick.

12. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 wherein said plate has indentations in its periphery for

(A) an ambidextrous thumb safety;

(B) a mainspring housing pin; and

(C) a magazine release clearance.

13. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 wherein said safety panels are identical.

14. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 wherein said frame has a single aperture through each side of said grip.

15. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 wherein said attachment means is two screws.

16. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 that is a semi-automatic.

17. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 that is automatic.

18. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 that is a 1911 style by John Browning.

19. (Original) A handgun according to Claim 9 that has ammunition stored in its grip.

20. (Currently amended) A semi-automatic handgun having a grip in which ammunition is stored before it is loaded into the barrel of said gun, said grip comprising

(A) a frame having a single ~~aperture~~ aperture through each side;

(B) a grip cover on each side of said frame, each grip cover having two screw holes therethrough;

(C) a safety panel between said frame and each grip cover, said safety panels

comprising identical flat metal plates made of stainless steel about 0.010 to about 0.030 inches thick, each plate having only two screw holes therethrough and no apertures therethrough over said single ~~aperature~~ aperture, each plate fitting entirely beneath a grip cover, said plates having indentations in their periphery for

(1) an ambidextrous thumb safety;

(2) a mainspring housing pin; and

(3) a magazine release clearance; and

(D) a screw passing though each said screw hole to attach said grip covers and safety panels to said frame.